

TALES FROM THE

CRYPT

pdc

JULY
1988
35¢

WELCOME TO THE
OLD CRONE'S CRYPT!
IN THIS ISSUE

**HORROR
HARBOR**

FOREVER DEAD!

**SKELETON
IN THE CLOSET!**

PLUS
OTHER WEIRD
SHOCKING TALES
FROM BEYOND
TIME.



BACK!-BACK TO YOUR GRAVES... YOU
SLIMEY GHOULS! I'VE SOMETHING TO
SAY TO OUR READERS! THERE ARE
MANY UNEXPLAINED HAPPENINGS...
FOR INSTANCE, DID YOU KNOW..



-IF YOU TAKE A TOOTH
FROM A SKULL, YOU'LL
NEVER HAVE A TOOTHACHE
...YOU DONT BELIEVE IT? A HEX ON YOU!



-IF A PORTRAIT FALLS FROM THE WALL
THAT PERSON WILL DIE WITHIN A MONTH!
... WHAT'S THAT? IT CANT HAPPEN TO YOU
BECAUSE YOUR NAME IS **DRACULA**.



-IF A DEAD PERSON IS CARRIED ABOARD
A SHIP, DISASTER WILL OVERTAKE
THE BOAT!
...IN THE MOVIES, IT'S ALWAYS A DRUNKEN
CAPTAIN!?

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

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Plus other horror tales that probe from
beyond our world!



Mel Lenny, Publisher
Carl Burgos, Editor . . . Irving Pass, Art Director

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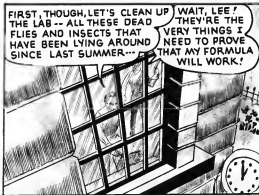
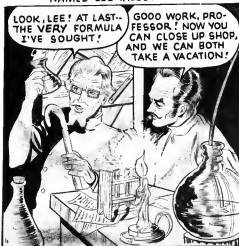


LEE TALBOT HAD A FORMULA THAT MIGHT HAVE BROUGHT HIM \$1,000,000 -- BUT HE ALSO HAD...

SKELETON *in the* **Closet**



FOR YEARS, PROF. DUBROW HAD BEEN RUNNING THE VITREX RESEARCH FOUNDATION WITH ONLY ONE ASSISTANT, A TECHNICIAN NAMED LEE TALBOT...



YOU THOUGHT I WAS WORKING ON A FORMULA THAT WOULD PROLONG LIFE FOR PERHAPS A FEW YEARS---

BUT INSTEAD, I WAS DEVELOPING AN ELIXIR TO RESTORE LIFE! WATCH!

THERE IS THE LIVING PROOF OF IT!

AS OLD PROF. DUBROW HOBBLING BACK TO HIS WORK BENCH, AN EVIL SCHEME FLASHED THROUGH LEE'S WARPED MIND...

AND WHEN DUBROW LAID HIS CANE ASIDE...

THERE'S A FORTUNE IN IT IF I CAN GET RID OF THE OLD MAN!

THESE NOTES CONTAIN MY FULL FORMULA-- THE GREATEST BOON EVER OFFERED TO MANKIND!

THAT ONE CLOUT REALLY FINISHED HIM! NOW I'LL DUMP THE BODY IN OUR CHEMICAL VAT---

--AND GIVE IT AN ACID TREATMENT! NOBODY WILL EVER RECOGNIZE OLD DUBROW AFTER THIS! HEH-HEH!

BY THE NEXT DAY, LEE TALBOT
HAD GONE THROUGH ALL OF
DUBROW'S EFFECTS...

SOME POST CARDS THE PROFESSOR
ADDRESSED BUT NEVER MAILED,
THE LAST TIME HE TOOK A
VACATION! I'LL GO TO THOSE
PLACES AND MAIL THE CARDS
MYSELF! THAT WILL FOOL
PEOPLE!



BUT FIRST I'D BETTER
GATHER UP WHAT THE
ACID LEFT OF PROF.
DUBROW---



-- AND PUT IT IN THIS CLOSET
THAT THE PROFESSOR ALWAYS
KEPT LOCKED! I CAN SAY
IT'S BEEN AROUND FOR
YEARS -- WHICH IT
HAS! HEH!



AS FOR THE CLUB I
USED, I'LL STICK IT
HERE IN THE YARD---



THEN POUR WHAT'S
LEFT OF THE VRIL
INTO THIS SPRAY
GUN---



AND GIVE THE CANE
A FULL-FLEDGED
TREATMENT!



SO LEE TALBOT MADE A QUICK
TRIP, MAILED THE POST CARDS,
AND RETURNED...

OH-OH! THE BUSH IS DROOPY!
LUCKY I STILL HAVE SOME
VRIL IN THE SPRAY GUN!



WHAT'S THE
TROUBLE,
MR. TALBOT?
ROSE
BUGS?

THAT'S RIGHT, HERVEY!
ROSE BUGS!



BY THE WAY, CAN YOU
STOP AROUND TOMORROW
AND CLEAN THE PLACE UP
BEFORE PROF. DUBROW
RETURNS?

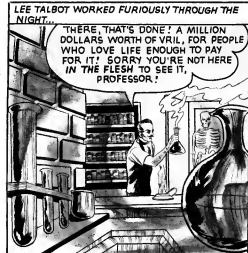
SURE THING,
MR. TALBOT!



LEE TALBOT WORKED FURIOUSLY THROUGH THE NIGHT...

“THERE, THAT’S DONE! A MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF VRIL, FOR PEOPLE WHO LOVE LIFE ENOUGH TO PAY FOR IT! SORRY YOU’RE NOT HERE IN THE FLESH TO SEE IT, PROFESSOR!”

ON SECOND THOUGHT, IT’S JUST AS WELL YOU DON’T KNOW WHAT’S HAPPENING, YOU OLD BONEYARD! YOU WERE GOING TO GIVE THE STUFF AWAY!



I'D BETTER LOCK YOU AWAY UNTIL HERVEY GETS HERE!

WHICH REMINDS ME, I'D BETTER FRESHEN UP OUR ROSE BUSH! WE SHOULD KEEP OUR LITTLE SECRETS, SHOULDN'T WE?

THE PROFESSOR'S FRIENDS SHOULD BE GETTING THOSE POST CARDS BY NOW! THEY'LL NEVER GUESS WHERE OR WHEN HE DISAPPEARED-- OR HOW!

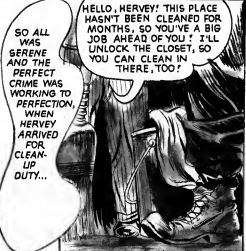


SO ALL WAS SERENE AND THE PERFECT CRIME WAS WORKING TO PERFECTION, WHEN HERVEY ARRIVED FOR CLEAN-UP DUTY...

HELLO, HERVEY! THIS PLACE HASN'T BEEN CLEANED FOR MONTHS, SO YOU'VE A BIG JOB AHEAD OF YOU! I'LL UNLOCK THE CLOSET, SO YOU CAN CLEAN IN THERE, TOO!

A-- A SKELETON! YOWW!

DON'T LET IT SCARE YOU! PROF. DUBROW USED IT IN HIS EXPERIMENTS! SEE YOU LATER, HERVEY!



AS HERVEY STARTED
WORK, A LONE
BUTTERFLY BUZZED
PAST HIS NOSE...



SO THE JANITOR
GRABBED THE
SPRAY GUN THAT
WAS LYING
HANDY...



BUT AS HE TRIED TO
KILL THE BUTTERFLY,
OTHER INSECTS
CAME TO LIFE...



AND THE MORE HERVEY
SPRAYED, THE THICKER
THEY BECAME, UNTIL...



THEY'RE EVEN
GETTING IN THE
CLOSET! I'D
BETTER CLEAN
THEM OUT OF
THERE--THAT'S
FOR SURE!



HELLO, HERVEY--
DO YOU REMEM-
BER ME?

THE--THE
SKELETON--
IT'S COME
TO LIFE!



OF COURSE I'VE COME TO LIFE,
HERVEY-- THANKS TO YOU! I'M
PROF. DUBROW! I WANT YOU
TO HELP ME EVEN SCORES WITH
THE MAN WHO
MURDERED ME!

SURE-- SURE
THING, PRO-
FESSOR!



IN THAT DRAWER, HERVEY, YOU
WILL FIND A LOADED REVOLVER!



NOT IF I GET THERE
FIRST,
HE
WON'T!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE OUT OF
LUCK, HERVEY-- JUST LIKE
THE PROFESSOR WAS!

GRAB HIM, HERVEY,
OR HE'LL KILL YOU!





GRADUALLY, BUT SURELY, LEE TALBOT
SUCCEUMBED TO THE GRIP OF THOSE
BONY FINGERS...



THE VRIL-- IT'S ALL
LEAKED AWAY-- BUT
MY FORMULA
IS HERE!

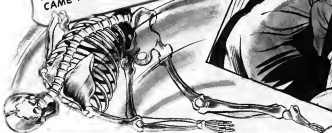


I' MUST MAKE MORE--
BEFORE MY TEMPORARY
STRENGTH IS--IS--GONE--



BEFORE THE SKELETON HAND COULD ADD THE FINAL INGREDIENT, ITS
STRENGTH GAVE OUT... AS HOURS PASSED, THE REMNANTS OF THE PRICE-
LESS ELIXIR, BOILED AWAY, WHILE THE BONES OF ITS INVENTOR, LAY
MOTIONLESS UPON THE FLOOR... DAYS FOLLOWED, AND FINALLY MEN
CAME TO THE SILENT LABORATORY, TO FIND A STRANGE SCENE...

APPARENTLY HERVEY
WAS CHOKING TALBOT
TO DEATH WHEN LEE
MANAGED TO SHOOT HIM.
BUT IT WAS TOO LATE
FOR LEE TO SAVE
HIS OWN LIFE!



BUT WHY SHOULD
THEY HAVE BEEN
FIGHTING OVER
A SKELETON?

IT DOESN'T MAKE
SENSE-- BUT
NEITHER DOES
THIS BATCH OF
PAPERS! MIGHT AS
WELL TOSS THEM IN
THE STOVE!

I WONDER WHERE
PROF. DUBROW
WENT-- AND WHY
HE LEFT HIS
CANE STUCK
HERE IN THE
GROUND?

IT
BEATS
ME,
TOO!

LIKE THAT YARN...
HMM? -- I KNOW
WHERE PROF. DUBROW WENT... DO YOU?
... WE BOTH KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN
THE LAB, THOUGH-- YOUR GHOST
WRITER-- THAT'S ME-- GOT
THE INSIDE STORY!



HOLD ON THERE, ---- NO USE TRYING TO GET AWAY! WHEN YOU BOUGHT THIS MAGAZINE, YOU WERE LOOKING FOR THRILLS, RIGHT? YOU WANTED 35 CENTS' WORTH OF TERROR-- BUT WE--(CHUCKLE)--ARE GOING TO GIVE YOU A LOT MORE THAN THAT! HO-HO--YES, INDEED! WHEN YOU'VE READ THIS LITTLE MASTERPIECE, YOUR FLESH WILL SHRINK ON YOUR QUIVERING BONES AND YOUR BLOOD WILL CURDLE INTO ICE! SHHH--DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT HE IS STANDING BEHIND YOU, COME TO TAKE YOU TO THE HUMAN ZOO...

EXPERIMENT in Terror



TWO DISTINGUISHED MEN OF SCIENCE WALK IN CENTRAL PARK ...



LOVELY SPRING NIGHT, CHADWICK! AND THOSE YOUNG LOVERS YONDER-- MAKES ME-- (SIGH)-- THINK OF MY OWN YOUTH!

LOVERS! BAH! LOVE IS ALL NONSENSE! A DELUSION!

YOU KNOW MY THEORIES, HORTON! THE WILL TO LIVE, TO SURVIVE, IS THE STRONGEST OF ALL HUMAN EMOTIONS! STRONGER EVEN THAN LOVE! BUT I HAVE AN IDEA-- COME...





So... EXCUSE ME, YOUNG PEOPLE!
I AM PROFESSOR CHADWICK,
AN ANTHROPOLOGIST! NO DOUBT YOU
COULD USE SOME MONEY? TO
GET MARRIED, PERHAPS!

B-BUT
WHO...

WHAT'S
YOUR GAME,
OLD MAN?



WE CANNOT DISCUSS IT HERE! BUT
I WISH TO CONDUCT AN EXPERIMENT
IN WHICH YOU MIGHT BE USEFUL!
YOU WILL BE WELL PAID! TAKE
MY CARD AND, IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED, COME AND
SEE ME!

GEE, MISTER,
I DON'T
KNOW...



LATER... THEY'LL
SHOW UP,
HORTON! YOU'LL
SEE! THEN I'LL
PROVE TO YOU
THAT LOVE IS
ALL A LOT OF
EYE-WASH!

I DON'T AGREE
WITH YOU AT ALL,
BUT I'LL CONFESS
I'M INTERESTED!
JUST HOW DO YOU
PROPOSE TO GO
ABOUT THIS
EXPERIMENT?



BUT PROFESSOR CHADWICK ISN'T TALKING...

GOOD-NIGHT,
CHADWICK! SORRY
YOU DON'T WANT
TO TELL ME ABOUT
IT! BUT I'LL KEEP
IN TOUCH!

BAH—YOU'RE AS MUCH
A FOOL AS THE REST OF
THEM! BUT I'LL SHOW
YOU I'M RIGHT! I'LL
SHOW THE WORLD!
LOVE! HAH—HAH!



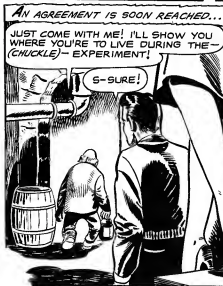
A QUEER LITTLE DUCK, CHADWICK!
I FEEL TERRIBLY SORRY FOR HIM!
BUT HE'S BITTER, MATES LOVE
AND LOVERS BECAUSE HE IS
HIMSELF SO GROTESQUE AND
DEFORMED! SOMETIMES I
WONDER IF HE'S QUITE
SAFE!



WHILE AT THAT MOMENT,
PROFESSOR CHADWICK IS
INSPECTING THE
APPARATUS FOR
HIS EXPERIMENT...

HAH—HAH—IF HORTON
ONLY KNEW WHAT I
HAVE IN MIND!

THE CAGES,
LIVING QUARTERS,
EVERYTHING IS READY!
AND MEETING THAT POOR
YOUNG COUPLE WAS A
STROKE OF LUCK!



THERE! YOU WILL BE LOCKED IN THE CAGE! THERE ARE LIVING QUARTERS FOR EACH OF YOU! I WILL-- (HEH-HEH) - LET YOU OUT WHEN **ONE** OF YOU ADMITS THAT **HUNGER** IS STRONGER THAN **LOVE!**

B-BUT WE'LL NEVER DO THAT! MARY AND I LOVE EACH OTHER MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF!



THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY NOW - BUT WAIT UNTIL YOU BEGIN TO **STARVE!** WHEN THERE IS ONLY FOOD ENOUGH FOR **ONE** OF YOU! NOW REMEMBER - IF YOU HOLD OUT THIRTY DAYS, YOU WIN AND I'LL PAY! OR IF **ONE** OF YOU ADMITS DEFEAT!

WE'LL NEVER ADMIT IT! LOVE WILL GET US THROUGH!

THE CAGE IS LOCKED...

WE'LL FOOL YOU, YES - PROFESSOR! WE WON'T TURN AGAINST EACH OTHER!

BRAVE TALK, BUT TIME WILL TELL! IT'S UP TO YOU TO CONVINCE ME!





NEXT DAY... TODAY WE REALLY START THE EXPERIMENT! FROM NOW ON YOUR FOOD WILL GRADUALLY BE CUT DOWN! STILL WANT TO GO THROUGH WITH IT?

YES! WE NEED THAT MONEY TO FURNISH A HOUSE!

YOU CAN'T FRIGHTEN US!



BUT LATER...

SHHH—I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU WHILE HE'S ASLEEP! JUST SAY THE WORD AND YOU CAN HAVE A GOOD MEAL—HE'LL NEVER KNOW...

I—I'M BEGINNING TO HATE YOU! YOU WANT ME TO CHEAT, TO DENY MY LOVE FOR BOB! I WON'T!



AND STILL LATER...

LISTEN—WHILE SHE'S SLEEPING! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A NICE THICK JUICY STEAK? LET **HER** STARVE IF SHE WANTS TO...

MARY TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR OFFER! MY ANSWER IS THE SAME AS HERS! NO!

IT WOULD BE EASY FOR US TO DENY OUR LOVE! WE COULD TAKE YOUR MONEY—THEN GET MARRIED! BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU **WANT** TO HEAR, ISN'T IT? YOU'RE CYNICAL AND EVIL AND YOU WANT US TO BE THAT WAY, TOO—BUT WE WON'T!

SO? HAH-HAH! WE'LL SEE! THE EXPERIMENT HAS ONLY BEGUN! JUST WAIT...



A GRIM SIGHT...

BREAD! LET ME HAVE IT! I'M STARVING! LET GO!

NO! IT'S MINE! ALL MINE! YOU CAN'T HAVE ANY! GIVE IT TO ME!



A WEEK PASSES...

GLAD YOU DROPPED IN, HORTON! THEY'RE **REALLY** HUNGRY NOW! WATCH WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I—(CHUCKLE)—DROP THIS LOAF OF BREAD!

THEY LOOK HALF DEAD! DON'T YOU THINK THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH?

F-FOOD! I SMELL IT!



ANHH— THAT'S GOOD!
BREAD! FOOD AT LAST!
(CHOMP—CHOMP)—

NO! SAVE
ME SOME!
PLEASE—
I'M SO
HUNGRY!

YOU SEE, HORTON!
LIKE WILD BEASTS!
HAH—HAH—
HAH!

BUT THEN...

Y-YES— I AM
ACTING LIKE A WILD ANIMAL!
ALL I WAS THINKING ABOUT
WAS MY STOMACH, MY OWN
HUNGER! I FORGOT ABOUT
MARY...



H-HERE, DARLING!
I'M SORRY! I DON'T
KNOW WHAT CAME
OVER ME! HERE,
TAKE THE BREAD!

HEH-HEH—SO
HE'S GOING TO BE
NOBLE AND SELF-
SACRIFICING AFTER
ALL!

YES—YES!
GIVE IT TO
ME! ANHHH—
SO GOOD!

OH! I COULD EAT A
DOZEN MORE LOAVES!
I'M STILL —(CHOMP-CHOMP)—
SO TERRIBLY HUNGRY!

YOU'RE A
WEAK FOOL,
YOUNG
MAN!

B-BUT, MARY!
I—I DIDN'T...



BUT WHEN HORTON
IS ALONE...

LATER... WELL,
CHADWICK,
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE
GOING TO LOSE!
THAT WAS A
PRETTY NASTY
SCENE, BUT HE
DID GIVE HER
THE BREAD!

YOU ARE A
ROMANTIC
OLD FOOL,
HORTON! OF
COURSE HE
GAVE HER THE
BREAD! BUT
SEE WHAT
HAPPENED...

SHE ATE IT ALL, WITH-
OUT A THOUGHT FOR HIM!
HE WON'T FORGET THAT!
AND THEY STILL HAVE THREE
WEEKS TO GO—UNLESS
THEY DENY THEIR LOVE AND
ASK TO BE LET OUT! DON'T
WORRY, HORTON, I'LL PROVE
MY POINT! PEOPLE CARE
MORE ABOUT THEIR
BELLIES THAN THEIR
HEARTS!

I'M SURE NOW THAT
CHADWICK IS MAD! I'LL
WATCH MY CHANCE
AND RELEASE THOSE
YOUNGSTERS, SINCE
THEY WON'T GIVE
UP!





YOU MUST LEAVE AT ONCE, UNDERSTAND? CHADWICK IS A LUNATIC — IT'S DANGEROUS TO GO ON WITH THIS CRAZY EXPERIMENT!

B—BUT OUR MONEY! WE'LL HAVE BEEN THROUGH ALL THIS FOR NOTHING!

AND THAT LITTLE DEVIL WILL THINK HE'S WON!



SUDDENLY...

SO HORTON! JUST AS I FEARED! IT'S A GOOD THING I WAS EXPECTING YOU!

CHADWICK! THAT GUN — W—WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?



YOU'LL SEE SOON ENOUGH, MY DEAR COLLEAGUE! NOW IN YOU GO! SINCE YOU'RE SO INTERESTED IN MY EXPERIMENT, YOU CAN BECOME A PART OF IT!

BUT THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS! YOU REALLY ARE INSANE!

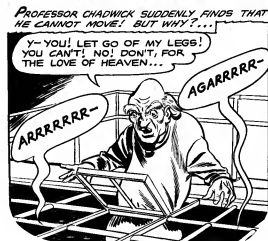
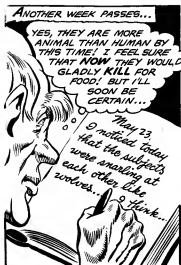


WE'LL GET YOU!

TEAR HIS EYES OUT!

NOW—NOW! IS THAT ANY WAY FOR YOUNG LOVERS TO TALK? PERHAPS MY EXPERIMENT HAS BEEN PROVEN AFTER ALL — YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN HUNGRY SAVAGES!





OUT OF THE NIGHT CAME THE GROTESQUE LITTLE MAN, CLUTCHING A MILLION DOLLARS IN CASH, MONEY THAT COULD BUY HIM ANYTHING IN THE WORLD—EXCEPT HIS OWN LIFE! FOR OF ALL THE PLACES HE COULD HAVE PICKED TO HIDE—HE SELECTED THE ONE SPOT WHERE DOOM WAITED WITH SLAVERING JAWS! THERE WAS TERROR LURKING IN THE COLD FOG HANGING OVER THE ROTTEN OLD MANSION LIKE A FUNERAL SHROUD, AND AT LAST A CRIMINAL KNEW THE UNTOLD HORROR THAT ONLY HE CAN KNOW WHO FINDS HIMSELF IN AN EVIL HOUSE...

BLOOD AND OLD BONES

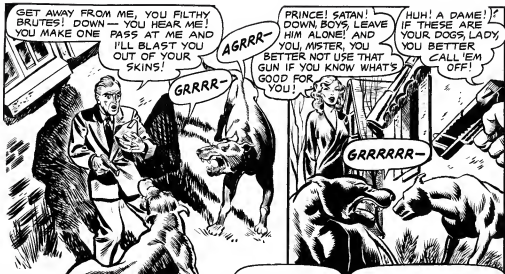


THIS LITTLE TALE OF FEAR STARTS AS "KILLER KILEY, BANK ROBBER AND MURDERER, IS FLEEING FOR HIS LIFE..."

THIS IS THE ONLY HOUSE FOR MILES! A GOOD PLACE TO LAY UP TILL THE COPS COOL OFF—ONLY I BETTER SCOUT AROUND FIRST!

SUDDENLY... AH—LOOKIT THOSE DOGS! REAL BRUTES—AND THEY'RE COMING AFTER ME! I GOTTA GET OUT OF THIS BEFORE THEY TEAR ME TO PIECES!





GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU FILTHY BRUTES! DOWN — YOU HEAR ME! YOU MAKE ONE PASS AT ME AND I'LL BLAST YOU OUT OF YOUR SKINS!

AGRRR—

GRRRR—

PRINCE! SATAN! DOWN, BOYS, LEAVE HIM ALONE! AND YOU, MISTER, YOU BETTER NOT USE THAT GUN IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

HUH! A DAME! IF THESE ARE YOUR DOGS, LADY, YOU BETTER CALL 'EM OFF!

GRRRRRR—



YOU'RE SAFE NOW, MISTER! NOW SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU MEAN BY SNOOPING AROUND HERE? WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY?

LOOK, YOU! THIS IS A GUN! TRY ANYTHING AND I'LL LET BOTH YOU AND THE DOGS HAVE IT! I'M THE BOSS, SEE?



NOW GET AHEAD INTO THE HOUSE AND DON'T MAKE ANY TROUBLE! I JUST ROBBED A BANK AND KILLED A MAN AND I'M DESPERATE!



HMM — MURDER AND BANK ROBBERY, EH? DON'T BE SO TOUGH, MISTER. MAYBE WE CAN GET TOGETHER!



I MUST TALK TO YOU QUICKLY, BEFORE MY HUSBAND COMES BACK! YOU'RE THE SORT OF MAN I'VE BEEN WANTING TO MEET— I—I THINK WE CAN DO BUSINESS!

BUSINESS? YOUR HUSBAND? SAY, LADY— WHAT IS THIS?



I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU COLD TURKEY! I HATE MY HUSBAND— AND I WANT YOU TO KILL HIM AND TAKE ME AWAY! I WANT TO START ALL OVER AGAIN!

MEANTIME AT THE NEARBY KENNELS...

OKAY, YOU HOUNDS—TIME FOR CHOW! AND I DON'T MEAN YOU SHOULD EAT ME! DOWN! CAN'T YA WAIT A MINUTE?



THERE YA ARE! LIKE IT, HUH? WELL, YA GET JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU FROM STARVING, SEE! AND TONIGHT YOU'LL GET YOUR BONES AS USUAL!



GRRRRRR—

ARRRRRR—

I—(CHUCKLE)—GOT A FORTUNE TIED UP IN THOSE DOGS, BUT I'LL MAKE PLENTY! KEEP 'EM HALF STARVED, FEED 'EM THOSE OLD BONES, AND TEACH 'EM TO HATE MEN! HAH—NO WONDER THE COPS BUY SO MANY TO TRACK DOWN CROOKS!



BUT... HUH! WHAT IS THIS? WHO'S THIS LUG, MYRA? AND WHATSA IDEA OF THE GUN?

JUST DON'T START ANY TROUBLE, BUSTER!

MEET MR. KILEY, BUTCH! HE'S TAKEN OVER HERE!



YOU HEARD WHAT YOUR WIFE SAID, MUG! I'VE TAKEN OVER—HAH—SHE IS SO RIGHT! I AIM TO HOLE UP HERE UNTIL THE HEAT'S OFF—AND ANYONE THAT'S GOT OTHER IDEAS GETS A SLUG IN THE BRISKET! GET ME?



NOW THAT WE GOT THINGS ALL SETTLED, I WANT THE DAME TO HUSTLE UP SOME GRUB! I'M SO HUNGRY I COULD EAT ONE OF THEM DOGS OF YOURS!

COMING UP, MR. KILEY!

HUH! YA GOT TO BE SO FRIENDLY WITH THIS CROOK, MYRA? WISH I COULD TURN THE DOGS ON HIM!



AS DARKNESS SETTLES LIKE A BLACK SHROUD...

YA GONNA HAVE TROUBLE WITH THE DOGS, MISTER! THEY'RE GOING CRAZY BECAUSE IT'S FEEDING TIME!

YOU'RE LYING TO ME! I KNOW YOU JUST FED THEM BRUTES A LITTLE WHILE AGO!

BUTCH IS RIGHT! AND THEY MIGHT ATTRACT ATTENTION!

RRRRR-

YA DON'T UNDERSTAND, MISTER! WE FEED THOSE DOGS A VERY—
(CHUCKLE)—SPECIAL DIET! I GOT TO GO EVERY NIGHT AND GET IT!

CUT IT OUT, YOU! I GOT A NOTION TO BLAST YOU! WHAT KIND OF DOG FOOD IS IT THAT YOU CAN ONLY GET AT NIGHT?



FOR ONCE MY HUSBAND IS RIGHT! THOSE DOGS ARE VERY VALUABLE, AND SPECIALLY TRAINED TO HUNT DOWN MEN! WE SELL THEM TO THE ARMY AND TO PRISONS! HERE, TAKE OUR CAR KEYS AND LET MY HUSBAND FEED THEM.

WELL, I RECKON YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITHOUT A CAR! THIS HOUSE IS TOO ISOLATED! SO COME ON, YOU, AND LET'S SEE WHAT KIND OF DOG FOOD YOU'VE BEEN USING! BUT NO TRICKS!



SOON... YOU SURE PICKED A FUNNY WAY TO FEED YOUR DOGS, FELLA! WE'VE BEEN ON THIS DESERTED OLD PATH NOW FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES! IF I THOUGHT YOU WAS UP TO ANYTHING...

I AIN'T UP TO NOTHING, MISTER, EXCEPT FEEDING MY DOGS! YOU'RE GONNA—
(CHUCKLE)—GET A REAL SURPRISE SOON!

HUH! AN OLD CEMETERY! WHAT'S THE IDEA OF COMING HERE? THERE'S NO DOG-FOOD AROUND HERE!

HAH-HAH! THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK! BUT IN A MINUTE YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN!



MEANTIME BACK AT THE HOUSE...

THAT LITTLE CROOK IS ALMOST AS BIG A FOOL AS MY HUSBAND! LEAVING HIS BAG HERE WITH ME LIKE THIS! BUT I'D BETTER CHECK JUST TO SEE IF HE'S LYING!



MONEY! HE ROBBED THAT BANK ALL RIGHT! THERE MUST BE AT LEAST A MILLION HERE! NOW IF HE'LL JUST DO AS I ASKED, AND KILL MY HUSBAND, I'LL BE ALL SET! AND IF I HEAR A PISTOL SHOT, I'LL KNOW MY SCHEME IS WORKING!



WHILE AT THE CEMETERY...

OKAY, SO YOU GOT TO DIG IN THAT OLD GRAVE! BUT WHY? WHAT'S THE GIMMICK?

I TOLD YA, MISTER! THIS IS WHERE I GET THE FOOD THAT MAKES MY DOGS SO FIERCE!



THE BONES ARE FOR MY DOGS, YA SEE! DRY OLD HUMAN BONES! I FEED 'EM SOME EVERY DAY AND THEY LIKE IT! MAKES 'EM FIERCE, DON'T HURT NOBODY, AND DON'T LOST ANYTHING! CUTE, HUH?

HUH! YOU MEAN YOU FEED THEM HUMAN BONES! UGH!



YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!

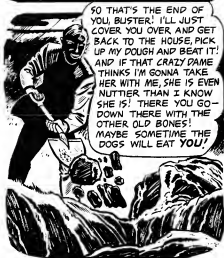
HMM—HE'S GETTING A LITTLE CARELESS NOW! IF I CAN BRAIN HIM WITH THIS OLD SKULL!

YOU MAKE ME A LITTLE SICK AT MY STOMACH, MAC! HEY, THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING OVER THERE IN THE BUSHES!

YA GONNA HEAR SOMETHING ALL RIGHT! LIKE LITTLE BIRDIES BUZZING IN YOUR EARS WHEN THIS NEW KIND OF BOWLING BALL CROCKS YA!

HUH!





BACK AT THE CEMETERY
KILLER KILEY PLAYS A
GRIM JOKE...

I'LL JUST PUT THIS
OLD—(CHUCKLE)—
TOMBSTONE OVER HIM!
NEVER SAY I DON'T PAY
PROPER RESPECT TO
THE DEAD—EVEN
WHEN I MAKE
THEM THAT WAY!



YIII— CAN'T FIGHT
THESE BRUTES! I
GOT TO GET OUT
OF HERE! IF I
CAN ONLY MAKE
IT TO THAT
TREE BY THE
WALL!

YORRRRRR—



SUDDENLY HE HEARS A
SINISTER CRACKING SOUND,
AND HIS COWARD'S HEART
TURNS TO JELLY...

THE B-BRANCH IS
CRACKING! OH, NO!
NO! AHHHHHH—



SUDDENLY A WAVE OF TERROR WASHES
OVER THE LITTLE MURDERER...

THE D-DOGS!
C-COMING AFTER ME!
GOING TO KILL ME!
THAT CRAZY DAME
MUST OF SENT
THEM AFTER
ME!

YIIIIOWWWW—

OOUUUUU—

GRRRR—



JUST M—MADE IT! OH, BROTHER,
THOSE DOGS ARE MEAN! WORSE
THAN WOLVES, BUT I'M OKAY NOW!
I GOTTA THINK OF A WAY...



RRRRRRR—

OOWWWW—

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE—

GRRRR—RRR—

AHRRRR—RRR—



AND BACK AT THE HOUSE...

ALL SET! BUTCH IS DEAD AND THE DOGS MUST HAVE THAT LITTLE FOOL BY NOW! HA—ALL CROOKS ARE SO STUPID—HE NEVER THOUGHT THAT I MIGHT HAVE ANOTHER SET OF KEYS FOR MY CAR.



WHIRRR—RARRR—

WHAT! MY CAR WON'T START! THAT CROOK WASN'T SO DUMB AFTER ALL! HE'S DONE SOMETHING TO THE MOTOR! PROBABLY TOOK THE DISTRIBUTOR HEAD OR SOMETHING!



WELL, I'LL USE HIS CAR! OH, THE DOGS ARE BACK—AND THEY'RE AFTER ME! NO, PRINCE, SATAN! DOWN! GET DOWN! GET AWAY!



GRRRRR—

ARRRRR—

EEEE— THEY WON'T OBEY ME! THEY'RE STILL HUNGRY—FOR M—ME! THEY'VE TASTED FLESH, AND NOW...



AND NOW SHE SEES THE GAPING RED JAWS OF HER PETS, CLOSER—CLOSER—AND CLOSER...

NO! YOU CAN'T
AAAAEEEEEEAIIIEE—



AND SO THE POLICE FOUND THEM AND BURIED WHAT WAS LEFT! THE MONEY WAS RECOVERED AND SOON THE EVIL STORY WOULD HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN. BUT...



NOW, WHEN THE WINTER STORMS COME, PASSERS-BY SAY THAT AROUND THE DESERTED OLD HOUSE CAN BE SEEN THE GAUNT BLACK FIGURES OF THE HOUNDS, HOWLING LIKE LOST SOULS! PERHAPS... WHO KNOW?

THE END

HE LOVED HIS WIFE AND WHEN SHE DIED, HE WAS WILLING TO PAY A GRUESOME PRICE TO HAVE HER BACK! HE PUT HIS OWN DESIRE ABOVE THE AWFUL WILL OF THE BLACK BEAST WHICH STALKS US ALL — DEATH! THEN, WHEN THE THING CAME AND KNOCKED AT HIS DOOR, HE SCREAMED AT WHAT HE SAW! FOR IT WAS NOT HIS WIFE THAT HE SAW, BUT A VILE AND FLESHLESS THING OF TERROR...

FOREVER DEAD



GEORGE FISHER Buries HIS BELOVED WIFE, DOLORES, AND IS ALMOST INSANE WITH GRIEF...

SO WE GIVE BACK THE BODY OF DOLORES FISHER TO THE EARTH — ASHES TO ASHES AND DUST TO DUST...

PLEASE, GEOFFREY, TRY TO BUCK UP! TIME WILL CURE EVEN THIS!

I—I CAN'T STAND IT, I CAN'T GO ON!

AS THEY LEAVE THE CEMETERY, AN ODD FIGURE WATCHES THEM...

I KNOW IT'S TOUGH NOW, AND NOBODY CAN REALLY HELP YOU, BUT...

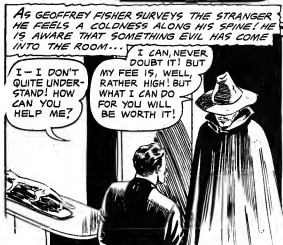
THANKS, JOE, BUT IT'S NO USE! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE WITHOUT DOLORES!

HMMM — LOOKS LIKE A CLIENT FOR ME!



THAT NIGHT AS GEOFFREY FISHER SITS AT HOME, STEEPED IN AN AGONIZING LONGELINESS AND REGRET...

SUDDENLY THERE COMES A KNOCKING AT THE DOOR! A SOFT AND SINISTER KNOCKING...



LATER, AS DR. JUDAS GOES TO THE CEMETERY WHERE THE WIFE IS BURIED...

A GOOD NIGHT'S WORK SO FAR! NOW IF ONLY THIS CORPSE IS NOT RESISTANT TO MY POWERS!



HAH, HERE IS THE GRAVE! NOT LET ME SEE — YES, I THINK THE SPELL OF WANAKETA SHOULD DO IT! WANAKETA, THE FIRST ZOMBIE MASTER!



JUDAS MAKES SEVERAL MYSTERIOUS PASSES IN THE AIR! LIGHTNING FLASHES AND THE THUNDER CRACKLES OVERHEAD! THEN THE EARTH OF THE GRAVE MOVES AND BURSTS ASUNDER...

COME OUT OF YOUR GRAVE, WOMAN! COME!



I OBEY, MY MASTER! I KNOW YOUR POWER! I HAVE HEARD YOUR MESSAGE AND UNDERSTOOD IT! I WILL OBEY YOU!



YES, YOU WILL OBEY! YOU ARE NOW OF THE LIVING DEAD! YOU KNOW WHERE I WANT YOU TO GO?

I KNOW, MASTER! TO MY HUSBAND, WHO WOULD HAVE ME BACK! BUT IS THIS WISE, MASTER? YOU SEE HOW I LOOK!



DO AS I BID YOU! BUT NOT YET! WAIT HERE UNTIL I SUMMON YOU! THEN COME IMMEDIATELY!

AS YOU COMMAND ME MASTER!



INCREDIBLE AS IT SOUNDS, GEOFFREY FISHER IS READY TO DO ANYTHING! HASTILY HE WRITES THE STRANGER A CHECK...

HERE YOU ARE! ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS! BUT REMEMBER, IF YOU DON'T KEEP YOUR WORD, I'LL STOP PAYMENT!

DR. JUDAS ALWAYS KEEPS HIS WORD! YOU WILL HAVE YOUR WIFE BACK-- TONIGHT!

KEEP YOUR CHECK UNTIL I DELIVER HER! I WANT NOTHING THAT I HAVE NOT EARNED! NOW I MUST LEAVE YOU!

Y-YOU KNOW, I ALMOST BEGIN TO BELIEVE YOU! I DON'T SEE HOW YOU CAN DO IT, BUT IF YOU CAN, I'LL BE IN YOUR DEBT FOREVER!

KEEP YOUR THANKS, AS WELL AS YOUR MONEY UNTIL YOU ACTUALLY SEE YOUR WIFE! BUT EXPECT YOUR WIFE IN LESS THAN AN HOUR!

LATER AS REACTION SETS IN...

WHAT HAVE I DONE? I MUST HAVE BEEN CRAZY! HOW COULD HE POSSIBLY BRING BACK THE DEAD?

HE'S SOME KIND OF A CRANK, I SUPPOSE!

BUT IF ONLY IT COULD BE TRUE! IF BY SOME MIRACLE HE COULD GIVE ME BACK DOLORES! OH, PLEASE, LET IT BE TRUE! PLEASE LET IT HAPPEN! BUT IN THE MEANTIME, I'D BETTER EAT SOMETHING!

BUT IN ONLY A FEW MINUTES...

HUH! S-S-SOMEBODY AT THE DOOR! BUT IT COULDN'T BE, NOT YET! THERE HASN'T BEEN TIME ENOUGH-- AND THIS WHOLE THING IS INSANE! I MUST BE HAVING A NIGHTMARE...

**KNOCK!
KNOCK!**

NEVERTHELESS, HIS HEART POUNDING, GEOFFREY FISHER RUSHES TO THE DOOR...

GEOFFREY! GEOFFREY, DARLING, OPEN THE DOOR! IT'S DOLORES!

T-THAT'S MY WIFE'S VOICE! I'D KNOW IT ANYWHERE! S-SHE REALLY HAS COME BACK TO ME!

I'M COMING, DOLORES! I'M COMING!

BUT WHEN
HE OPENS
THE DOOR
AND SEES
THE
DREADFUL
THING
THAT
STANDS
THERE...

DOLORES!
OWWWWWW—
YOU'RE NOT
MY WIFE!

OF COURSE I AM,
DARLING! COME
BACK TO YOU!
COME BACK
FROM MY
GRAVE!

NO! YOU'RE HORRIBLE!
GO AWAY FROM ME, YOU—
YOU THING! I KNOW
YOU'RE NOT DOLORES!
YYYYYYYYYYYYY—



BUT I AM, SWEETHEART!
SURELY YOU DIDN'T EXPECT
ME TO LOOK THE WAY I
DID WHEN I WAS ALIVE?
REMEMBER THAT
I'M DEAD!

D—DEAD! YES, I
KNOW! BUT THAT MAN,
THAT STRANGER,
PROMISED TO SEND
YOU BACK TO ME! I
WANT THE REAL DOLORES,
MY BEAUTI-
FUL WIFE!

YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HIM,
DEAREST! BUT ISN'T IT ENOUGH
THAT I'M HERE,
THAT WE'RE
TOGETHER,
AGAIN ONCE
MORE! COME
AND KISS ME,
MY SWEET!

KISS YOU! NO—
GAAAAAAA—



SUDDENLY, DR. JUDAS ENTERS THE ROOM...

THAT'S ENOUGH, DOLORES!
LEAVE YOUR HUSBAND ALONE!
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT HE
DOESN'T WANT YOU BACK
AFTER ALL?

YES, I SEE! I'M
DISAPPOINTED!
BUT I WILL OBEY
YOU, DR. JUDAS!
WHAT ARE YOUR
COMMANDS?

*AS THE CORPSE-WOMAN IS ABOUT TO LEAVE
THE ROOM...*

WHAT'S WRONG, MR. FISHER?
I'VE KEPT MY END OF THE BARGAIN, HAVEN'T
I? BUT PERHAPS YOU ARE NO LONGER SO
ANXIOUS TO
HAVE HER
BACK!

NO—NO! SHE'S
HORRIBLE! TAKE
HER AWAY!



THEN I WILL HELP YOU AGAIN, MR. FISHER! WOULD YOU LIKE FOR ME TO SEND YOUR WIFE BACK TO HER GRAVE?

YOU WILL? OH, YES, YES! SEND HER BACK! I C- CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF HER!

ALL RIGHT, MR. FISHER! I'LL DO IT! BUT THAT WILL COST YOU MORE—**FIVE THOUSAND** DOLLARS THIS TIME! PAY ME, PLEASE!

FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS! I W-WON'T PAY IT!

A FIENDISH SMILE CROSSES THE FACE OF DR. JUDAS AND HE MAKES A SIGN TO THE WOMAN...

IT LOOKS AS IF I WAS WRONG AFTER ALL, DOLORES! GO TO YOUR HUSBAND AGAIN IF YOU WISH! HE IS WAITING!

THANK YOU, I DID NOT WANT TO RETURN TO MY GRAVE!

BUT AS GEOFFREY FISHER SEES THE HORRIBLE THING FROM THE GRAVE APPROACH HIM, HER FLESHLESS LIPS PURSED FOR A KISS...

COME TO ME, DARLING! ONE LONG ENDLESS KISS AND...

YAAAAA—STAY BACK! I'LL PAY— I'LL PAY YOU ANYTHING, ONLY MAKE HER GO AWAY!

SO DOLORES FISHER LEAVES HER HUSBAND AGAIN, THIS TIME FOREVER...

THERE YOU ARE, MR. FISHER! SHE RETURNS TO HER GRAVE! SHE WILL TROUBLE YOU NO MORE!

THANK, GOODNESS! HERE, TAKE YOUR MONEY! I—I WAS A FOOL TO THINK I COULD HAVE MY WIFE BACK! SHE'S GONE—GONE FOREVER!

PHOENIX BANK
Five Thousand Dollars

HOW HORRIBLE IT WAS! MY BELOVED WIFE—LOOKING LIKE THAT!

YOU ARE A FOOL, MR. FISHER! YOUR WIFE WAS A **ZOMBIE**! I HAVE THE POWER TO RAISE THE DEAD, BUT ONLY BY MAKING THEM ZOMBIES, THE LIVING DEAD! BUT NOW, FAREWELL! I HAVE OTHER BUSINESS!

SHORTLY AFTERWARD, DR. JUDAS APPROACHES A NEWSSTAND...

HMM—NOW TO GET A PAPER AND READ THE DEATH NOTICES! PERHAPS I CAN FIND ANOTHER CLIENT!

BUT NOW A SUDDEN REMORSE
SETS IN AS THE TERROR
BEGINS TO VANISH...



I - I WAS CRUEL
TO DOLORES!
AFTER ALL, SHE
CAME FROM HER
GRAVE TO BE
WITH ME AGAIN!
BUT SHE WAS
SUCH A
HORROR!

FOLLOWING A STRANGE
COMPULSION HE FINDS
HIMSELF ENTERING THE
CEMETERY WHERE HIS WIFE
IS ONCE AGAIN IN HER GRAVE...



I MUST SEE HER
AGAIN! NO MATTER
WHAT - SHE IS
STILL MY
BELOVED
WIFE!

AS HE KNEELS BY THE GRAVE...

DOLORES! DOLORES, DARLING!
I'M SORRY! COME BACK TO
ME AGAIN, PLEASE! LET ME
BE WITH YOU!



SUDDENLY HE SENSES A FIGURE BEHIND HIM...



SO, MY FRIEND! YOU CHANGE
YOUR MIND AGAIN! I
MUST SAY THAT
YOU ARE HARD
TO PLEASE!

DR. JUDAS! HELP
ME! LET ME BE
WITH HER AGAIN,
PLEASE! B-BUT
I HAVE NO
MORE MONEY
TO PAY YOU!

DR. JUDAS EXPLAINS - AND
THE DESPERATE MAN AGREES!
SO AFTER JUDAS SINKS A
KNIFE INTO HIS HEART, KILLING
HIM, HE RETURNS - AS A
ZOMBIE ALSO...

YES, ROGER! WE
CAN ROAM THE
WORLD TOGETHER,
ALWAYS UNDEAD!
BUT COME, LET US
BEGIN OUR
TRAVELS!



DOLORES!
DARLING! HE
KEPT HIS WORD!
I HAVE YOU
AGAIN, THIS
TIME FOREVER!
SEE, I AM A
ZOMBIE ALSO!



I FEEL SORRY FOR
YOU! FOR ONCE IN
MY LIFE I FEEL
PITY! SO I WILL
HELP YOU - AND
IT WILL COST YOU
NOTHING!

T-THANK YOU!
BUT HOW? HOW
CAN YOU HELP
ME?

AND DR. JUDAS, A
STRANGE SMILE ON
HIS CRAFTY FACE,
WATCHES THEM WALK
OUT INTO ETERNITY...

WE'LL
HAVE A
BEAUTIFUL
DEATH TO-
GETHER,
SWEET-
HEART! JUST
YOU AND ME
-FOREVER!
COME! I
KNOW A
SPLENDID
TOMB
WHERE
WE CAN
SET UP
HOUSE-
KEEPING!

FAREWELL, MY FRIENDS!
WE WILL MEET AGAIN!
REMEMBER - YOU
MUST ALWAYS
DO MY
BIDDING!



The
End

ONCE, BACK IN THE SHADOWS OF TIME, THERE LIVED A GREEDY KING! LUST HAD ETCHED KING'S FACE AND MADE HIS SPIDER HOLLOW OF HIS EYES! FROM HIS TORTURE CHAMBERS CAME THE DYING SCREAMS OF THOSE HE HAD PILLAGED AND FORGOTTEN! NOW IT HAPPENED THAT THIS KING HAD A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WIFE... BUT THEREBY HANGS THE TALE OF THE BLEEDING RUBY...

THIEF of SOULS



THE KING, DESPITE HIS GREAT WEALTH, WANTS MORE...

WULF, YOU FOOL, I AM A POOR MAN! I WANT MORE—MORE!

YES, SIRE! BUT PERHAPS HUMBLE WULF CAN HELP. I KNOW A MAGICIAN OF GREAT REPUTE!

THIS MAGICIAN IS CALLED MERLO, MY SIRE! HE HAS DISCOVERED A WAY OF MAKING PRECIOUS STONES! HIS STONES WILL PUT THIS PUNY ONE TO SHAME!



SO THE KING SENT HIS JESTER TO
FETCH THE MAGICIAN MERLO...

HAH—MERLO MUST
BE MIXING A WITCHE'S
BREW! SEE HOW THE
SCAVENGERS
HOVER!



WOLF IS GREETED WITH DERISION...

HO, LOOK
WHO COMES
TO SEE OUR
MASTER!

YOU ARE
THE FOOLS!
TAKE ME TO
MERLO AT
ONCE!

A
FOOL!



COME, JESTER!
AND PRAY THAT
MERLO DOES
NOT SEND YOU
TO JOIN THESE!

UGH—A VILE
PLACE! IF MY
BLOOD WERE
WATER, IT WOULD
FREEZE!



HAH—HAH!
WELCOME, SIR
FOOL! YOU CAN
SHARE MY CAGE
IF YOU WILL!
HEH—HEH—
HEH...



HERE WE
ARE! BETTER
PRAY, FOOL!

BEING A
JESTER AND NOT
A LIAR, I WILL NOT
SAY THAT I AM
NOT AFRAID.

ENTER!

GREETINGS,
JESTER! MY VISION
FORETOLD YOUR
COMING! BUT IT
WOULD NOT TELL
ME WHAT YOU
SEEK!



WOLF EXPLAINS HIS MISSION...



SO YOUR GREEDY KING WANTS MY PRECIOUS STONES, DOES HE...

YES, MOST EXALTED ONE! HE HAS HEARD THAT YOUR BLACK ARTS PRODUCE THE FINEST OF GEMS!



HE SHALL HAVE THEM! INDEED HE SHALL! IF... HAH-HAH-CAN PAY THE PRICE! A TERRIBLE PRICE...



SO IT IS AGREED...

HE WILL PAY!

IN BLOOD, IF I KNOW MY SIRE! MERLO'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED!

SO MERLO CAME TO THE CASTLE OF TARANTO WHERE ALREADY THE EVIL KING WAS PLANNING COLD AND BLOODY MURDER...

VERY WELL! I WILL VISIT YOUR KING SOON! BUT REMIND HIM THE PRICE IS HIGH!



YOUR WIFE, SIRE? THEN IT IS FOR HER YOU WISH MY GEMS?

MY WIFE NO, MERLO! FOR MYSELF! I WOULD OWN THE FINEST GEM IN ALL THE WORLD!



FROM THIS PORTRAIT, SIRE, YOU ALREADY OWN THE FINEST OF GEMS! BUT YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND! NOW LISTEN WELL...



YOU MUST GIVE ME YOUR WIFE, SIRE! FROM HER SOUL, I WILL MAKE SUCH A GEM AS THE WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN! IT WILL BE AS SHE IS - PURE AND RADIANT!

MY W-WIFE! YOU WOULD TAKE HER SOUL?

EVEN THE KING IS DAUNTED AT THE THOUGHT OF SELLING HIS WIFE'S SOUL! THAT NIGHT HE WALKS THE BATTLEMENTS, PONDERING...





A RUBY! HAH—RED AS BLOOD! THE FINEST IN ALL THE WORLD... AND MADE OF A WOMAN'S SOUL!



LATER...
YOUR RUBY, SIRE! SEE HOW PURE AND DEEP IS THE COLOR! YOUR QUEEN LIVES WITHIN IT!

YOU HAVE DONE WELL, MERLO! GIVE IT TO ME—QUICKLY!



YES! IT IS AS LOVELY AS WAS LYGA! AND NOW, MERLO, I WILL PAY YOU! GUARDS...



AT THE COMMAND OF THE KING...

YOU DIE, MERLO!

WHAT IS THIS TREACHERY?

YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO! QUICKLY, BEFORE HE CAN CAST A SPELL ON US!



AND MERLO GOES TO JOIN THE TWO GUARDS WHO HAD SEIZED THE QUEEN...

YOU WILL BE BAIT FOR VULTURES SOON!

HAH—HAH—SAVE THYSELF, MAGICIAN!

I CURSE YOU ALL! I...
AAAAHHHHH—



BUT ONE OTHER PERSON NOW KNOWS THE KING'S TERRIBLE SECRET...

A MONSTER! SO THAT IS WHY LYGA DISAPPEARED! I, THOUGH BUT A FOOL, WILL HAVE VENGEANCE!







The Beautiful and the Dumb!



MIGNON, GIRL VENTRILOQUIST, IS THE
RAGE OF PARIS! ONE NIGHT AT THE
THEATRE COMIQUE...

WHAT A QUESTION!
THEY ALL DO!

TELL ME, FIFI!
DID ANYONE EVER
SAY YOU WERE
BEAUTIFUL?

HO-HO!

HAH-
HAH!

WHILE IN
THE AUDIENCE,
GEORGES DUFY
SEES THE ACT
FOR THE TENTH
TIME...

AND I LOVE HER DEARLY..
BUT FROM SUCH A
DISTANCE! I'VE GOT TO
MEET HER SOMEHOW...SHE
COULDN'T TURN DOWN A
SIMPLE INTRODUCTION
FROM A FAN!







WELL, WHAT IS IT
YOU HAVE TO SPEAK
OF? FIFI AND I HAVE
NO SECRETS!



AND GEORGES DECIDES TO APPEAL TO THE LADY'S
POSSIBLE CURIOSITY...

SURELY YOU MUST WONDER WHY I HAVE INTRUDED
ON YOUR PRIVACY THIS WAY, MIGNON?
IT IS BECAUSE I AM
STRICKEN WITH
LOVE FOR
YOU!

I? BUT WE ARE
STRANGERS!



STRANGERS? NO, INDEED!
I'VE ADMIRERD YOU FOR
WEEKS! NOW I WANT
YOU TO KNOW ME...

PLEASE, M'SIEUR!
YOU
STARTLE
ME!

AMBITIOUS
GEORGES CAN'T
BEAR THE
CHANCE OF
LOSING HIS
GAMBLE...

I HAVE LOVED
YOU FOR MONTHS!
I BEG YOU TO
ACCEPT ME AS
YOUR DEAR
FRIEND...
PERHAPS YOUR
FIANCEE?



IMPOSSIBLE, M'SIEUR!
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD
KNOW THAT I AM UNDER
A PARTNERSHIP
CONTRACT
THAT EX-
CLUDES
ROMANCES!

I'LL
BUY
YOUR
CONTRACT!



OUI, M'SIEUR...IMPOSSIBLE! YOU
SEE IT IS A LIFE-LONG CONTRACT
WITH ME! HOWEVER, THERE ARE
CONSIDERATIONS IN ALL CONTRACTS...
IF YOU'D CARE TO DISCUSS THEM...





Horror Harbor

OUT OF THE SEA THEY CAME, DREADFUL DROWNED THINGS IN SEARCH OF VENGEANCE! MALIGNANT EYES, IN SLIME-COVERED FACES, FOLLOWED EVERY MOVEMENT OF THE NEWCOMERS TO BARTLEY MANOR! AND NEARBY, BROODING IN THE STORM, WERE THE FEARFUL ROCKS KNOWN AS THE WEIRD WOMEN...

AS DUSK FALLS, JAMES RANSOME AND HIS BRIDE OF A WEEK ARRIVE IN A VILLAGE ON THE CORNISH COAST...

TOBACCO
Periodicals
RENTING AGENT

THIS MUST BE THE PLACE WHERE I PICK UP THE KEYS, JANE! JUST BE A MINUTE!

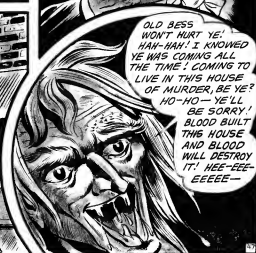
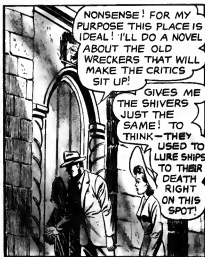
GET THE LONDON PAPERS WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, DARLING!

JAMES RANSOME GETS A STRANGE WARNING...

YOU SHOULD KNOW THE STORIES ABOUT BARTLEY MANOR, SIR! THEY AREN'T PRETTY! WEIRD THINGS HAPPEN, I'M TOLD! NOBODY WILL LIVE THERE!

SPLENDID! FINE! I'M DOING A NOVEL ABOUT THE OLD WRECKERS ALONG THIS COAST AND I CAN USE MATERIAL! BUT THANKS FOR THE WARNING!







THE NEXT
AFTERNOON...

THOSE ROCKS
ARE CALLED
THE WEIRD
WOMEN! THE BARTLEYS, WHO
BUILT THE MANOR, USED TO HANG
LANTERNS ON THE ROCKS TO LURE
SHIPS! THEY WRECKED SCORES OF
SHIPS BEFORE THEY WERE
CAUGHT AND HANGED!

LOOK AT THAT OLD
HULK OUT THERE!
MUST BE—UGH—
ONE OF THE
SHIPS!

UNDOUBTEDLY! THIS PLACE
IS A GOLD MINE, JANE! MY
NOVEL WILL BE THE MOST
AUTHENTIC WORK ON THE
WRECKERS THAT EVER...

JIM!
LOOK!
THE
OLD
WRECK!



NO-NO-NO-
HAH-HAH-HE-
EEE—

GAD! IT'S
THAT CRAZY
OLD WOMAN
AGAIN!

AND SHE'S ON
THAT WRECK,
JIM! SHE MUST
LIVE OUT
THERE!

COME, MY DEARS!
I KNOW YE WANT TO!
COME AND VISIT OLD
BESS ON HER SHIP!
HAH-HAH-HEE-HEE-
OLD BESS REMEMBERS!
OLD BESS WAS THE
ONLY ONE AS
WASN'T
DROWNED!
COME!



JIM RANSOME FEELS A STRANGE
COMPULSION TO TALK TO THE OLD
HAG...

I MUST
TALK TO HER, JANE!
I SIMPLY MUST!
THERE'S SOMETHING
VERY ODD ABOUT ALL
THIS—MAYBE SHE
KNOWS SOMETHING
THAT WILL HELP ME!

I WON'T STAY
HERE ALONE!
OH—BE
CAREFUL OF THOSE
STAIRS!

THEY REACH
THE BEACH
SAFELY AND...

SHE'S COMING
TO MEET US,
JIM!

MAYBE SHE'S
NOT AS CRAZY
AS I THOUGHT!
I HOPE SHE CAN
ANSWER QUESTIONS
INTELLIGENTLY!



WITHOUT WARNING THE SKY DARKENS,
AND A STORM BURSTS IN FURY...

H-HOW CAN
A STORM
COME UP SO
QUICKLY,
JIM?

STRANGE!
BUT WE'LL
RUN FOR IT
AS SOON AS
I HAVE A WORD
WITH THIS OLD
WOMAN!

HAH-HAH—
A LOVELY
STORM, MY DEARS!
JUST LIKE THE ONE
ON THAT NIGHT!
THE NIGHT THEY
WRECKED US!
A TERRIBLE
STORM IT
WAS...

STRANGE EXCITEMENT MOVES IN
THE MIND OF JIM RANSOME! AS A
WRITER, HE SENSES A FANTASTIC
STORY...

OLD WOMAN! BESS!
DO YOU MEAN YOU
WERE WRECKED ON
THIS COAST?

AYE— THAT
I WAS! ALL
OF THEM
DROWNED!
ALL
DEAD—
BUT ME!

INCREDIBLE!
THE LAST SHIP WAS
WRECKED IN 1823!
BUT...



SUDDENLY, JANE RANSOME
SEES — WHAT?

JIM— LOOK
BEHIND YOU!
EEEEEEEE—



OH, JIM—
JIM! **WHAT
ARE THEY?**

THE
D-DEAD,
I'M AFRAID!
COME BACK
FROM THE
SEA!

HAH-HAH—
YER RIGHT,
MY DEARS!
ALL MY
FRIENDS,
DROWNED
LONG AGO BY
THOSE MURDERING
WRECKERS! THEY
HATE ANYONE
WHO IS
ALIVE!



RUN FOR IT,
JANE! **RUN!**

OHHH—

GET THEM, MY OLD
FRIENDS! KILL THEM—
MAKE THEM LIKE YOU!
WHY SHOULD THEY
LIVE?



HURRY—
HURRY!
THEY'LL
TEAR US
TO PIECES!

OHH— THE
STAIRS
SWAY SO!
IF WE
FALL...





SLIP OF JIM RANSOME'S FOOT AND HE FOLLOWS HIS WIFE INTO THE ABYSS...

IT SEEMS TO JIM RANSOME THAT EDNA PASS BEFORE HE RECOVERS HIS SENSES. STRANGELY ENOUGH, HE IS ALIVE—OR IS HE?

GAAAAAA—

HEE—HEE—
WE'LL BOTH
BE KILLED!
HAH—HAH—
HAH!

OH! MY HEAD! BUT NO BONES SEEM TO BE BROKEN! AND I CAN'T REMEMBER JUST WHAT HAPPENED, EXCEPT THAT THE OLD CRONE AND I WERE...

DESPERATELY, HE SEARCHES THE LONELY SANDS...

I REMEMBER NOW!
JANE FELL! JANE!
WHERE ARE
YOU? JANE!

SUDDENLY, JIM HEARS A SOFT SOUND, A CRY, AND WHEN HE TURNS...

JIM! HERE I AM!
I'M GLAD YOU CAME
TO ME! I WANTED YOU
TO FOLLOW ME!

JANE! YOUR
FACE!
Y—YOU'RE
LIKE THEM!

COME TO ME! WE
ARE AS THEY ARE
NOW! WE WILL LIVE
TOGETHER IN THE
SEA FOREVER!

NO! KEEP AWAY
FROM ME! YOU'RE
NOT JANE! YOU'RE
SOME HORROR FROM
THE PIT! STAY
AWAY...

JAMES RANSOME
STUMBLES, AND IN
THE QUIET MIRROR
OF THE SEA...

HUH! I—
AAHHHHHHHHH—

The
End